

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sealed collection device comprising a plastic cap frictionally fitted onto an open end of a fluid-holding vessel, said cap comprising:
an opening defined by a top wall; and
a downwardly tapered inner wall positioned beneath the opening and structurally interrelated to the top wall, the inner wall including a plurality of radially extending striations formed therein, wherein each of the striations has a thickness.
2. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 1, wherein further comprising means for fixedly associating the cap with an open end of a fluid-holding is in threaded engagement with the vessel.
3. (Previously Presented) The cap of claim 1, wherein the inner wall depends from the top wall.
4. (Previously Presented) The cap of claim 1 further comprising a lower annular wall joining the top wall to the inner wall.
5. (Previously Presented) The cap of claim 1 further comprising an upper annular wall extending upwardly from the top wall.
6. (Currently Amended) The cap of claim 5 further comprising [[a]]an absorbent wick contained within the cap.

7. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the wick is positioned substantially above the top wall.
8. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the wick is a pile fabric.
9. (Original) The cap of claim 6 further comprising a seal affixed to a top surface of the upper annular wall.
10. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the combined force needed to penetrate the wick and the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 10 pounds force.
11. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the combined force needed to penetrate the wick and the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 7 pounds force.
12. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein the combined force needed to penetrate the wick and the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 4.5 pounds force.
13. (Previously Presented) The cap of claim 1, wherein the inner wall is conically shaped and has an angle of from about 25° to about 65° relative to the longitudinal axis of the cap.
14. (Previously Presented) The cap of claim 1, wherein the inner wall has a rounded bottom.
15. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the thickness ratio between non-striated and striated portions of the inner wall is in the range of about 10:1 to about 1.25:1.

16. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the average thickness of striated portions of the inner wall is between about 0.002 inches and about 0.008 inches, and wherein the average thickness of non-striated portions of the inner wall is between about 0.01 inches and about 0.02 inches.

17. (Previously Presented) The cap of claim 1, wherein the striations are formed in an inner surface, an outer surface or both the inner and outer surfaces of the inner wall.

18. (Original) The cap of claim 17, wherein the inner wall has between 3 and 12 of the striations.

19. (Previously Presented) The cap of claim 1, wherein each of the striations comprises a radially extending groove in the inner wall.

20. (Original) The cap of claim 1 further comprising one or more radially extending ribs formed on an inner surface of the inner wall, each rib being positioned between a pair of adjacent striations.

21. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein an inner surface of the inner wall is at least partially coated with a lubricant.

22. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the force needed to penetrate the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 8 pounds force.

23. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the force needed to penetrate the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 6 pounds force.

24. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein the force needed to penetrate the inner wall with a plastic pipette tip is less than about 4 pounds force.

25. Canceled

26. Canceled